Arizona Solar Energy Industries Association

2034 N 13th Street Phoenix, AZ 85006 phone 602-253-8180 fax 602-258-3422



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Comments to the Arizona Corporation Commission regarding Electric Industry Restructuring and changes in the Rules for Competition.

The Arizona Solar Energy Industries Association has worked closely with the Commission and other stake holders to insure that the Rules for Electric Competition were developed in a manner that would be equitable for all parties involved, including Arizona's ratepayers.

Through involvement in the Unbundling Working Group and the Solar Portfolio Standard Subcommittee, a dialogue resulted where a plan for solar energy under the restructuring process was developed that would not only provide economic development and environmental benefits to Arizona, but would do so at little cost to the ratepayers.

While, in the end, the benefits for solar energy in the Solar Portfolio Standard and the Systems Benefit Charge did not come out exactly as we would have liked, we were satisfied that process was fair to everyone involved and a workable program had been developed and approved by the Commission. A great deal of effort was expended by a number of individuals to insure that the interests of all stake holders and consumers were considered.

We support the existence of benefits for solar energy under the Solar Portfolio Standard and the Systems Benefits Charge as they exist under the current rules. Not only did a great deal of effort go into the development of the rules process as it now stands, but Arizona companies, large and small have expended time and money to begin to meet the standard as it had been previously adopted.